

The Klein Family

of

Tarnow, Poland

Faith Buetmann Stern

February 2017/ July 2020

Thanks

This compilation would not exist without help and information from many of the relatives. My mother-in-law, Bertha Klein Stern and her brother Emil Klein gave me a good start.

Herman and Jenny Klein and Barbara Karasinski supplied further information as did Eva Klein Marquise and Diana Marquise Raab. The LDS microfilms provided some records as did the Ship's Passenger Lists in the National Archives. In 2001 Kurt and I visited Tarnow, Nowy Sacz, Zakopane, and Szczawnica looking for family information. The archivist in Tarnow was particularly helpful, letting me actually handle the old records in which I found data on the oldest ancestors. To all who helped I am most grateful. From information given on the Jewish Genealogy website, I've added the history of two towns to which we trace our origins, along with the history of Jews in those towns, to give us all a sense of the place where the ancestors lived, and the conditions under which they worked, created and loved their families, and started a family which survives today. Mike Liebermann from Toronto, Canada provided information on the family of Henrietta. His research was confirmed by the marriage certificate of Herman Klein and Henrietta Liebermann which I received from Bielitz Hall of Records in 2014.

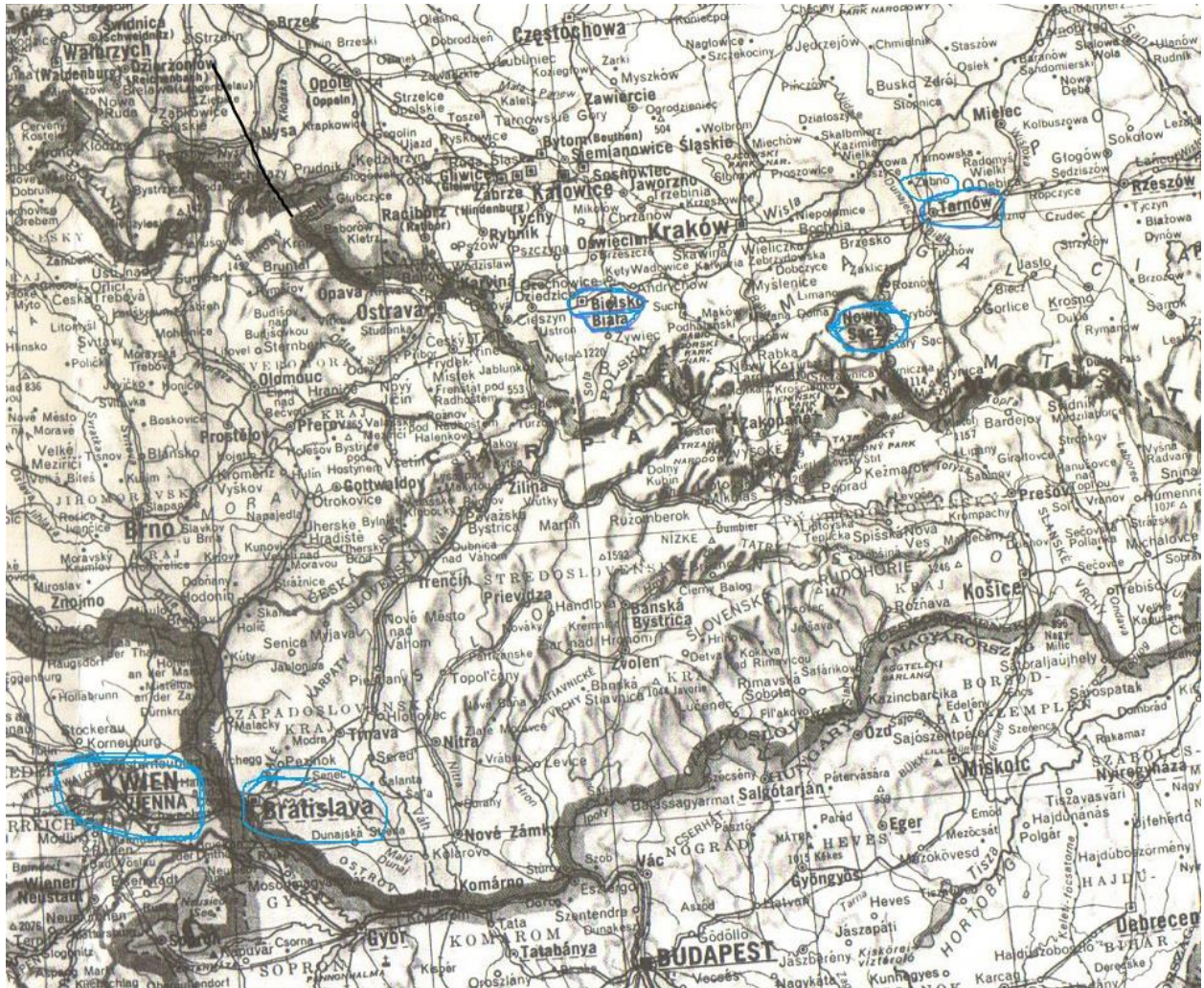
More information or photographs and corrections are most welcome. Faithstern@aol.com or write to Faith Stern, 103 Grant Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. U.S.A.

Table of Contents

Map of Poland.....	4
History of Zabno.....	5
History of Tarnow to 1945.....	8
History of Jews in Tarnow.....	11
Klein Family History.....	18

Klein Family Photographs (See separate file)

Map showing Krakow, Tarnow, Zabno, Bielsko Biala, and Nowy Sacz



History of Zabno

The earliest Klein for whom we have a record is Abraham Klein, born in 1803-1804 who died in Zabno at the age of 45 on 18 March 1849. This information is from Jewish death records from Zabno. We are assuming this is our ancestor Abraham as an Abraham Klein and his wife Rachel who lived in Zabno are listed as the parents of Isaak Klein b. 1837/1838 in the marriage records from Tarnow.

Zabno is a village 9 miles south of Tarnow. The first historic mention of Zabno comes from 1274, when Boleslaw Wstydlivy, the Cracow Prince, gave the village to the knight Swietoslaw, who descended from the Gryfit family. This information proves that the settlement must have already existed before. It might have come into being in the second half of 12th century. In 1344 Zabno was in the hands of the Tarnowski family, and in the second half of 14th century it received town rights. The settlement had favorable development conditions because of its location on the trade route from Wojnicz to Korczyn, near to the Dunajec crossing as well. In the 15th century also crafts, such as: furriery, tailoring, carpentry and flour-milling, began to develop in the town. In 1442 a parish and a wooden St. Spirit Church were built there.

In the 16th century the town was habited by 600 citizens. The 1591 tax census says that there were 42 craftsmen in Zabno. In the second half of the 16th century the reformation reached the settlement. Its representative was the Zabno heir Hieronim Buzenski. Lack of support of the reformation among the citizens of the town caused the movement to die out quickly.

The 17th century brought bad luck. In 1637 there was a fire in the town. Next, Zabno experienced Swedish invasion and an attack of the army led by Jerzy the 2nd Rakoczy of Siedmiogród, which caused great devastation. Among other things, they set on fire the parish church. The town has also survived the invasion of Jan Debinski, the foreman of Nowy Korczyn. Although he had sold his Zabno properties to Gabriel Ochocki, he still forced taxes from the local peasants and ravaged the soil. The events of 17th century caused the fall of Zabno and the local population's emigration to the country or to the neighboring towns. The new owner Ochocki tried to improve the town's economic situation but organizing additional fairs and trades did not help. After Ochocki's death Zabno came back into the hands of the Debinski family and after that, through marriage, the Stadnicki family took it over.

Jews got the right to settle in Zabno in 1675; unfortunately, there is a lack of information about the place they had come from. Maybe the then heir Rafall from

Borzym brought them to the town and gave them some privileges like permission for trading at fairs, at the weekly and everyday markets in the town and the neighboring villages. Furthermore, they were premised to run taprooms and inns, to bake bread, to produce meat and cured meat products, to build houses and to buy up real property from the Christians. A special street set aside in the town where the Jews could settle. The newcomers were also discharged from paying taxes for 7 years from when they came to town. Those favorable conditions caused the rapid development of the Jewish society in Zabno. In 1692 the former rights were confirmed and broadened by permission to build a synagogue, a prayer house, and a cemetery.

At the end of 18th century the town became the important center of the rabbinic movement. The first famous rabbi of Zabno was Szalom Dawid Unger, the author of religious works, the son of Dawid Unger from Dabrowa. In 1711 in Zabno the Jewish believers paid 766.06 Polish zlotys of the poll tax. In 1765 the commune had 636 Jewish people, including 460 living in the town. In 1777 there were 180 houses in the town, in which lived 155 Christian families and 94 Jewish ones. In 1777 Zabno counted 661 Christians and 333 Jews. In 1779 in 185 houses lived 146 Christian families and 79 Jewish ones. The total population numbered 654 Christian citizens and 281 Jewish believers.

In the 18th and 19th century, Zabno was an impoverished town. During the partition it was placed in the Austrian annexation. Half of the citizens at this time were Jewish. Their main occupations were trade and petty craft. After 1855 Zabno became the seat of the judicial district and in 1867 all local authorities were moved to Dabrowa, which in that time was the best developed town, both in respect of economics and the number of habitats. On the 20th April 1888 the town experienced the biggest fire of its history. Its range reached practically all of Zabno except for several houses located near the post office. 125 buildings, 25 barns and the church were completely burned. Sadly, one of the Jewish citizens was killed. He did not have time to escape while guarding his estates and burned alive.

The 19th century was the time of continuous natural disasters and poverty for Zabno. In 1813 and in 1828 there were floods. In 1873 there was a cholera epidemic and in 1888 there was another fire which destroyed almost the whole settlement. Jewish citizens were unquestionably better prepared for any miseries. They had very well-organized social help, their own hospital and a house for the poor and the elderly. What is more, the Community Council granted benefits for some Jewish families. Such benefits were given to four Jews during the time of 1895-1897. The religious community of Zabno consisted of the following towns: Bieniaszowice, Choraazec, , Czyzzow, Demblin, Goruszów, Jadowniki Mokre, Jagodownik, Janikowice, Konary, Miechowice Malle, Miechowice Wielkie, Nieciecza, Nowopole, Odporyszów, Sieradza, Sikorzyce, Targowisko, Ujsscie Jezuickie, Wietrzychowice, Wola Rogowska, Zakirche, and Zabno with its suburbia.

Data concerning the number of the Jewish population in Zabno indicates that in the 19th century it varied but tended to rise. In 1830, 309 Jews lived there, in 1845 there were 210, in 1870, 64 Jewish people, and in 1890, 672--a number that was 50% of the total town population at that time. In this time Jews still had many rights: they could sell any goods at fairs, stalls and on the streets of Zabno. They produced beer, hard liquor, meat, cured meat products and baked bread. They could buy houses and settle on the specially designated streets. In addition, the Jews living in Zabno had their own temple, cemetery and baths. At the end of the 19th century the economic situation in Zabno started improving, with the founding of the distillery, the mill and the brickworks

At the beginning of the 20th century Jews were a significant group in Zabno. They took a property at the market, and the majority of the trade and craft was also in their hands. They had their representatives in the Zabno Community Council. This meant that they had great influence on the way the whole town was working, as well as on the social relations taking place in their neighborhood. By that time our ancestors had either died or had already moved to Tarnow, a larger nearby town. In 1900 the Jewish population of Tarnow was 12,586.

History of Tarnow to 1945

Evidence of settlement in this area goes back to the Mesolithic Era. A Celtic burial ground in Letowice has also been discovered that dates to the late fifth and early sixth centuries BC. In the mid-ninth century AD, a stronghold was built on the slope of Mount St. Martin (the archeological evidence for this stronghold has come from an area of 9.6 hectares [approx. 23.7 acres]). Though the fortified settlement was destroyed in the eleventh century, another with the name of “Tarnów” was founded on the Biala River. This was a popular place name in the Slavic lands. In the late eleventh and early twelfth centuries, it was given to the Benedictine monastery in Tyniec near Kraków, which is confirmed by records in a document of the papal legate Ægidius of Touca?, who arrived in Poland in approximately 1124. This is the first written mention of Tarnów’s existence. The next comes from 1308 or 1309 and is found in a list of miracles that occurred through the intercession of Kinga the Blessed, which were included in the “Life of Kinga the Blessed”. Described is the healing of a woman named Marta, who was said to come from the village of Tarnów, which belonged to count Rafal.

In 1327, Spycimir of the Leliwa Crest acquired the village by way of purchase and exchange with a knight named Leonard. The village was later called Tarnów Wielki, and three years later, Spycimir founded his own private town there. On 7 March 1330, the king of Poland, Wladyslaw Lokietek, granted a privilege allowing the town Tarnów to be granted a charter based on Magdeburg law. Spycimir Leliwita finished construction of the castle on Mount St. Martin. Tarnów’s town charter is kept in the Czartoryski Library in Kraków. The Leliwa family also contributed to the town’s development by promoting trade and crafts. One of the family’s branches began using the surname “Tarnowski” beginning in the fifteenth century. Advantageous privileges attracted merchants of various nationalities to the town, including Germans, Jews and Scots. A particularly important figure for the town’s heyday was Jan Tarnowski (1488-1561), grand crown hetman, military commander, politician and writer – a Renaissance man in the style of Erasmus of Rotterdam. In the sixteenth century, the town was encompassed by embankments and walls, and sewer and wooden water supply systems were already in place. More than a dozen guilds existed at that time.

In the sixteenth century, the parish church that had been erected just after the town received its town charter was elevated to the status of collegiate church. A synagogue, school and Calvinist church also existed. The tombstone of Jan Tarnowski dates back to this period. It is one of the most beautiful and largest (13.8 meters tall [45 feet]) tombstones in Europe, which was carved by the Italian artist Gian Maria Mosca of Padua, known as “Padovano” (“the Paduan”). Padovano also designed the Renaissance town hall, and later also oversaw its construction. As the result of marriages, family

connections and historical circumstances, Tarnów belonged over history to the powerful Ostrogski, Sanguszko and Lubomirski families.

As the result of the first partition of Poland, Tarnów fell under Austrian rule, in what was known as Galicja, and was the seat of local government (the *cyrkul*, an administrative unit similar to a modern *powiat* – district). From 1785, Tarnów was also the seat of a bishopric. In 1787, the Austrian government retracted Prince Hieronim Sanguszko's judicial and administrative powers in the town, which became subject only to the Austrian government. A *Forum Nobilium* (Noble Court) was established for the seven following districts: Mysłenice, Sacz, Bochnia, Tarnów, Rzeszów, Sanok and Dukla.

From the very start, a patriotic underground movement was active in Tarnów and the surrounding region, whose aim was to combat Germanization, preserve Polish values and contribute to the struggle for independence. The most prominent of these Polish patriots was General Józef Bem, who was born in Tarnów in 1794. He was an outstanding strategist, and a soldier of great courage and determination, who participated in the November Uprising (1830-1831) and in the fighting for Hungary's freedom during the Spring of Nations (1848-1849). Tarnów also witnessed the "Galician slaughter". Peasants, incited by the partitioning power, attacked the nobility, looted their estates and killed the "lords" who were leaders of the independence movement. The peasants accused them of subjecting everyone to repressions by the "legal" partitioning authorities, who paid peasants who presented members of Tarnów's city council with the corpses of members of the nobility. The massacre, led by Jakub Szela, is also known as the Galician Massacre, and began on 18 February 1846. It failed to squelch patriotism and efforts to win independence. During the January Uprising in 1863, for a short time Tarnów was the headquarters for a branch of the National Council.

The town's development accelerated in the second half of the nineteenth century, along with the construction of the railroads, which increased trade and light industry. In 1852, Franciszek Eliasiewicz, who [later] took part in the January Uprising, founded a machine and farm tools factory in Tarnów's Zabłocie district. After the January Uprising, it was expanded to include an iron foundry. In 1858, Szymon Reiter opened a match factory. The population also grew. In 1870, Tarnów had a population of over 21,000, which made it the third largest town in Galicia, after Lwów and Kraków. Gas lights were installed in the town, a local press was established, and in 1888, Father Józef Baba founded the first Diocesan Museum, where he collected sacral art – the first such Institution in the Polish lands. In the early twentieth century, development continued: the town was electrified, and a new train station was built.

During the First World War, Russian troops occupied Tarnów already on 10 November 1914. They remained stationed in the town until 6 May 1915. The Polish Rifleman Divisions, Strzelec and Sokol joined the fight against the partitioning powers.

The 1st Brigade of the Polish Legions fought against the Russians near Tarnów, at Lowczowek, on 22-25 December 1914.

During the Tarnów-Gorlice operation in early May 1915, the town was under fire by Austrian heavy artillery. Several buildings in the town and train station platforms were destroyed. On the night of 30-31 October 1918, Tarnów was the first town in Poland to gain its independence after one hundred forty-six years of subjugation. Austrian soldiers were disarmed and Colonel Kajetan Amirowicz was named the town's commandant.

After the war, the town experienced a period of cultural and economic development. During the 1920's, construction began on the State Factory of Azot Compounds in nearby Swierczkow, which from 1929 was known as Moscice and annexed to Tarnów. This building was one of the largest investments in interwar Poland and brought about an increase in the population and gave the town a more industrial character. In 1939, Tarnów had a population of about 40,000, of whom about half were Jews.

During the Polish-Soviet War of 1920, the National Defense government was headed by Prime Minister Wincenty Witos, whose home village was Wierzchoslawice near Tarnów. Another Tarnów native, General Franciszek Latinik, was named during that period to the post of military governor of Warsaw. In April 1924, Tarnow was an important center of a general strike.

In August 1931, Tarnów was the site of the Tenth Congress of Polish Legionnaires. Approximately 10,000 people came for the event, which included all of Poland's important political and military leaders, such as President Ignacy Moscicki, Prime Minister Aleksander Prystor, speaker of the Sejm Switalski and Marshal Edward Smigly-Rydz.

Just before the German invasion of Poland, a group of saboteurs bombed the Tarnów train station on 28 August 1939. On 3 September, the Luftwaffe bombed the State Factory of Azot Compounds in Moscice, as well as the town itself. In November, transit camps were set up in Tarnów and Moscice for Polish prisoners of war. The first arrests took place in March 1940. In June, the Germans sent thirteen engineers from the Azot plant in Moscice from the Tarnów prison to Wisnicz, and from there to Auschwitz. They had been arrested for boycotting German instructions. The first transport of Polish political prisoners, a total of 728 people, took place on 14 June 1940. In mid-1941, the Germans issued a decree that a closed ghetto be created for the Jews. Its final liquidation took place in September 1943. In July 1943, after the resistance movement issued and carried out a death sentence on five of the Tarnów Gestapo's informers, the Germans staged a public massacre in reprisal, and as a way of terrorizing the population. In April 1944, they publicly shot fifty prisoner-hostages in reprisal after the resistance organized the derailment of German trains and other acts of sabotage. Home Army detachments

carried out diversionary attacks as part of the “Burza” campaign. The Tarnów AK district recruited five companies of the AK’s 1st battalion 16 p.p. The “Barbara” battalion, under the leadership of Captain Eugeniusz Borowski, ps. “Leliwa”, conducted diversionary attacks on the Cieszkowice Plateau. On 17 January 1945, before the Germans left the city, they destroyed the equipment at the Tarnów train station, blew up the warehouses and all the bridges. On 18 January 1945, Tarnów was no longer under German occupation.

History of Jews in Tarnow

As early as 1445, we find mention of Kalef, a Tarnów Jew, who originally had come from Lwów and was a silk trader. Tarnów soon however became home to one of the largest Jewish communities in Malopolska. In Yiddish, Tarnów is known as Tarnow, Tornew, Torne and Tarna. In the Middle Ages, the Jews were primarily involved in the grain and wine trades, whose goods came from Rus’ and Hungary. At first Tarnów had a branch of the Kraków Community (known as przykahalek, or small auxiliary kahal). In 1581, the town’s owner, Konstanty Ostrogski, granted the Jews a privilege enabling them to engage in trade inside buildings, at stalls and on the market square, as well as to distill and sell alcohol. This privilege was confirmed in 1676 by his grandson, Wladyyslaw Dominik, and then by the next heir as well, Stanislaw Koniecpolski. Thanks to the advantageous privileges, the Jewish population grew, and in the eighteenth century exceeded 30% of the town’s population.

The Jewish community’s significance also grew, as shown by the fact that the Tarnów Jews had several representatives in the Council of Four Lands. These privileges also excluded the Jews from the municipal court system, which protected them from any possible abuses by the town council. They were to be subject only to the castle court. The documents guaranteed protection for the synagogue and cemetery, for they stipulated harsh punishments for anyone who might desecrate them. The Jews strove to come to agreements with the burghers as well, demonstrated for example the agreement signed in 1631 regarding rents Jews were to pay for having a kirkut in the village of Pogdwizdów.

In 1667, Stanislaw Koniecpolski, the town’s owner at that time, guaranteed the Jews the privileges they had been granted earlier (such as the synagogue and cemetery). In 1723, Tarnów became part of the princely Sanguszko family holdings. As new owners, they wielded their “castle suzerainty” not from Mt. St. Martin, but from their court in Gumniski. They, too, were favorably inclined towards the Jewish population, seeing in them an opportunity to develop the town after the destruction of the seventeenth century. The general situation in the country, however, and the partitions of Poland hampered

their efforts. In September 1792, a fire broke out that devastated the town. The Jewish quarter was destroyed, as was the market square and town hall.

In the late eighteenth century, new currents appeared – Chasidism (under the influence of the Halberstam and Horowitz dynasties) and the *haskala*. In 1788, thanks to funds from Naftaly Herz Homberg, the first Jewish secular school was opened. The Jewish district originally included the northeastern part of the downtown area, and Grabówka was the Chasidic quarter. When the Community asked the Austrian authorities for permission to expand the area in which Jews were allowed to settle in the town, the answer was negative. As a result, the idea of a Jewish town “outside the walls” emerged, but this was never realized in the end. Nevertheless, the buildings that were erected in this area, such as the New Synagogue or baths, do show that this idea was treated seriously. Austrian rule was oppressive not only for the Poles, but also for the Jews, who were subjected to Germanization just as the Poles were. Beginning in 1788, every Jew had to be registered under a German surname. In addition, the emperor required military service of the Jews, and the power of the *kahal* was limited exclusively to religious matters. Jews were also banned from moving to the cities, which in effect brought about the impoverishment of the Jewish population. The “law on paupers” was also introduced, which banned anyone unable to pay their taxes from exiting the monarchy’s borders. Taxes were increased constantly (and included “kosher” and “candle” taxes), and a marriage tax was introduced. The aim of the latter was to limit natural growth among Jews.

In 1842, a Jewish hospital was opened in Tarnów, and in 1904 the municipal baths, designed by Franciszek Hackbail and Michał Mikołajczyk, was built. Another historic date was the grand opening of the New Synagogue, designed by Franciszek Dundaszek and Władysław Ekielski. The synagogue was called the Franz Josef I Synagogue, because it officially opened on the emperor’s birthday, on 18 August 1908.

Occasionally there were events manifesting a mutual antipathy, such as beatings or robberies, usually involving the local peasantry. In the town itself, an atmosphere of co-existence dominated. Nevertheless, in 1869, during a fire at the cathedral, the Jews were so selfless in helping to put out the fire that Bishop Alojzy Pukalski presented a letter to the rabbi with heartfelt thanks for their assistance. When the bishop was celebrating the anniversary of his bishopric, the Community sent a congratulatory letter, for which he publicly expressed his thanks.

In the late nineteenth century, the idea of emigration to Palestine was very much alive in Tarnów. One of the first pioneering settlements was the village of Mahanaim, founded in 1898 by a group from Tarnów. Today all that remains is a plaque recalling the pioneers from Tarnów.

Tarnów's dynamic development as an industrial center during the interwar period contributed to a significant growth in the town's Jewish population. There is no doubt that antipathy and an anti-Semitic mood did exist among the peasantry, and that this also penetrated the ruling elite (one can recall here for example the memoirs of Wincenty Witos). The Jews nevertheless did participate in the struggle for Poland's independence, in the hope that there would be positive changes in a free country.

During the interwar period, Tarnów was famous for its hat-making industry, with the companies Zylbersztejn, Klajn [Is this a reference to Herman Klein?] and Kinberg and Wajs. These firms exported their products to countries as far away as the Balkans. Clothing manufacturing was also very developed. The foundations for this industry were laid by Rajzla Rubin.

In 1939, the Jews made up half of Tarnów's population. They had approximately thirty synagogues and houses of prayer, schools, and their own sports clubs, such as "The Jewish Sporting Youth", "Gwiazda-Stern", "Kraft-Sila", "Dror", "Hagibor", "Hacair", "Gordonia" and "Samson". The last of these was the most successful and had a beautiful stadium that celebrated its grand opening in 1930, on the eighteenth anniversary of the club's foundation. A number of cultural institutions existed, such as the drama circle "Hazomir" ("Song"), Music and Theater Association "Muza", Music Society and the Singing Society "Harmonia". All the Jewish political parties active on the national scene also had a presence in Tarnów. In addition, there were many charitable organizations, such as "Bikur kholim" ("Visiting the Sick"), "Beis-Lekhem" ("House of Bread"), "chevra kadisha" ("Holy Brotherhood"), "Tsdaka" (alms for the poor) and "Anshel khesed" ("The Generosity of People").

After the Germans entered Tarnów, the Jews began to be persecuted, just as in the rest of the Generalgouvernement. In November 1939, over the course of a few days, most of the synagogues and houses of prayer were burned down. In mid-1941, the Germans issued an order creating a closed ghetto for the Jews. Its final liquidation took place in September 1943. Himmler issued a decree ordering the deportation of the Jewish and Polish populations from the territories annexed to the Reich. In addition, General Gubernator Hans Frank also had a plan to free Kraków of its Jews. As a result, the Tarnów ghetto held about 40,000 people, and included the area of Lwowska, Nowa, Folwarczna, Szpitalna, Polna and Jasna streets, as well as the square Pod Deebem (today known as Square of the Ghetto Heroes).

The most tragic date in the history of Tarnów's Jews was 11 June 1942, when about three thousand people were killed by the Germans on Tarnów's market square and nearby streets. Their remains were buried in the cemetery on Starodabrowska Street. In the following days, until 18 June 1942, the action continued. Over 12,000 people were killed, about 8,000 were sent to camps in Belzec, Plaszow, and Auschwitz. A few who managed to escape death went into hiding. Punishment for aiding a Jew was the death

penalty: in Jodlowa, near Tarnów, for example, the Germans burned down the Filipiak farm and shot the entire family. In the village of Podborze, the Germans burned down twenty houses as punishment for residents' assistance to the Jews.

The last caretaker of the house of prayer at Goldhammer Street died in 1993, and the District Museum in Tarnów began to care for the synagogue's furnishings. The keys were given to the Kraków Community. Groups of Jews having their origins in Tarnów are active at present in France, Israel, Canada and the United States. On 19-21 June 1997, the District Museum organized an event called "Jews of Tarnów: A Day of Commemoration".

What remains in Tarnow Today

The oldest part of the district once inhabited by Jews is framed by Zydowska (Jewish) and Wekslarska (Draft or Note) Street. The houses there, built in the 17th and 18th century, are the most typical examples of Jewish building with narrow hallways, tiny courtyards and narrow front walls. It is still possible to observe marks of mezuzahs (a scroll of parchment containing two parts of Tora) in the frames of their doors. Some of the store windows still preserve iron shutters. Next to Zydowska Street is the Bimah-the remnants of the old Synagogue, a podium from which the Tora was read. Since 1996 concerts and artist performances are organized there to honor The Days of Remembrance for Galician Jews. The Old Town witnessed a mass slaughter of the local Jews during German occupation.

One of the corner houses of Zydowska Street carries a plaque commemorating the liquidation of the local Jewish ghetto. In the District Museum, located in the northern frontage of the City Square in one of the houses, tourists can admire an interesting collection of Jewish art among which are the original privilege act coming from 1667, three Torah scrolls and records from the last Tarnow synagogue.

North leading Goldhammera Street took its name after Dr Eliaz Goldhammer to honor him as a vice-mayor of Tarnów. The decision concerning the denomination of this street was a precedent in the Poland at the beginning of the 20th century as Doctor Goldhammer was of Jewish origin. The buildings once belonging to Tarnow's elite are placed on both sides of the street. The house marked with number 1 served as a house of prayer until 1993, whereas number 3 was the most luxurious hotel in Tarnów and was owned by Herman Soldinger. Building number 5 acted as the premises of the old Jewish

Credit Society with President Herman Merz. In the entrance there are two commemorative plaques devoted to honor of Merz and Goldhammer. The façade of the building number 6 is covered with inscriptions both in Yiddish and Polish language advertising some dishes from the menu of that time.

A steam semolina mill, established by Henryk Szancer in 1859, had an immense influence on modernization of the mill trade in Galicia by increasing its efficiency considerably in a short time. Acting as a trading partnership, Szancer and Freund launched another steam mill in Tarnów in 1865. In the 1880s that mill paid taxes eight times as high as did other mills of Prussian Upper Silesia. This fact indicates the immensity of enterprise of Tarnów's traders.

A Jewish ritual bathhouse-Mikvah was erected in 1904 in Mauretanian style. It became infamous for having been the site for the first transport of Jews to Auschwitz.

The Jewish cemetery, founded in 1581, is one of the oldest and most interesting cemeteries in southern Poland. Over four thousand graves can be found there. It was devastated by the Nazis during WWII. What is more, it was the place of mass slaughter of Jews from Tarnów's ghetto committed from June 1942 to September 1943. After the war, in 1946, Dawid Beker, a Jewish sculptor, erected there a monument-a broken column coming from the ruins of the New Synagogue in Tarnów-and engraved such inscription in Hebrew: "And the sun shone and was not ashamed..."

The places of the Tarnów region used to be strongly developed centers of Jewish culture. Small towns lacking in large-scale industry were centers of Hassidism in Poland. Jewish sejmiki from the Malopolska area took place in Dobrowa Tarnowska, and thus it is the place many eminent tzadiks came from. Dawid Unger, the founder of the famous Unger dynasty as well as Cwi Hirszem Rymanower, later Rymanów's tzadik, came from Dobrowa Tarnowska, one of the most significant centers of Hassidism.



Photograph of the
Gravestone in Tarnow
Cemetery of Breidel
Kamholz Klein and
Chaje Kamholz Klein

Date unknown



Tarnow
Cemetery (Klein
graves in the
center) 2001



Close up view of the stones for the two sisters Breindel and Chaje



Klein Familie

13 July 2020

The earliest Klein for whom we have a record is **Abraham Klein**, born in 1803/04 who died in Zabno at the age of 45 on 18 March 1849. (This information is from Jewish death records from Zabno. For the moment we are assuming this is our ancestor Abraham.) Abraham Klein and his wife **Ruchel** (Rachel) lived in Zabno, a village near Tarnow. Abraham and Ruchel are listed as the parents of **Isaak Klein** b 1837/1838 in the marriage records from Tarnow.

Zabno is a village 9 miles south of Tarnow. In 1890 it had a Jewish population of 696. Tarnow is a much larger town. In 1900 its Jewish population numbered 12,586.

On 16 January 1862 **Isaak Klein**, age 24, from Zabno married **Beile Mechlowicz**, age 16, from Tarnow. Beile was the daughter of **Schaje** and **Channe Güttel Mechlowicz**. Isaak and Beile were married by the schenkel Wolf Bär in the presence of the witnesses: Israel Isaak Friedman and Mayër Israel in Tarnow. This took place in House #189. (Records photocopied by LDS)

Jitzhok (Isaac) Klein and his wife Beile lived in Tarnow, Poland, where he was a coal merchant by profession. Emil Klein, his grandson, remembered him only as a retired, older man. According to Tarnow records, Beile died in 1902 at the age of 58.

Family members stated that Isaak (Jitzhok) and Beile had six children: Herman, Elias, Chaim, Lieba, Haya, and Salomon. We had always assumed that this was the order of birth.

The records at Tarnow, however, show the following children:

Chaje Witte (Haya) b 17 Dec 1862 House 38 midwife: Rosa Würzel

Abraham Hersch b 22 Jun 1864 House 115 midwife: Rosa Würzel
(Herman) Witness Jakob Orschitzer

Elias b 22 Feb 1866 House 62 midwife: Rosa Würzel
Witness Wolf Bär, schenkel

Liebe b 22 Feb 1868 House 62 midwife: Rosa Würzel

Joseph b 16 Apr 1869 House 120 midwife: Huide Ascher
Witness Mayer Wasserman

Chaim b 20 Oct 1870 or 1871

Salomon

b 18 Mar 1884 House 111 Witnesses: Jacobt Weltsin, Lowi Bild and Meyer Srzt. His circumcision was 25 Mar 1884

We had no prior knowledge of a relative named Joseph Klein. Perhaps he died before reaching adulthood.

*It appears that there may have been a clerical error when Hersch's birth was recorded. In the record book, his parents are named as Akiwe and Chanze Klein. An earlier entry on 9 Jun 1864 indicates that a male child was born to Isaak and Beile. This child died at birth. It is my opinion that the parents of the child who died were Akiwe and Chanze. This Klein couple had their first child Joseph in 1843. Several others followed: Gutman in 1847, Peretz in 1849, Hersch in 1852, Leib in 1853, Alter in 1856, Sara in 1859, Jüttel in 1860. In 1862 they had a female child who died. In 1866 Joseph was the last child born to this couple.

Another possibility would be that Isaak and Akiwe were related, and that when Isaak and Beile's second child (unnamed) died 3 weeks before Chanze gave birth to Abraham Hersch, that Akiwe and Chanze (who already had 9 children) gave Abraham Hersch to Isaak and Beile.

Abraham Hersch Klein is clearly our ancestor, however, as this is the name given in the record of his marriage to Breindel Kammholz. In that record he is listed as the son of Isaak Klein and Beile Mechlowicz and his age is 26. Further documentation of Hersch's birthdate comes from a statement typed on the back of his daughter Berta's birth certificate saying that Herman Klein is the same person as Abraham Hersch Klein born 22 June 1864 in Tarnow. The 15 July date given on the death certificate I received from Bielsko is most likely a typo. It's possible that his birth date was 15 June and that he was circumcised on 22 July and that is the date shown on Jewish records. However, the month of July was inadvertently typed probably because the form was being typed out in July of 1999, and Herman's death date was also in July.

Liebe's birth (with all the same details) is also recorded on 16 March 1868, That may have been her name-giving day.

When the six known children married and had families, five of the six named one daughter Beile, after the grandmother. This name takes variant forms in the family such as Balbina, Basia, and Balka. Emil stated that Baila was the Jewish form of the name.

HAYA (CHAJE WITTE) KLEIN TURTELTAUB

The first child born to Isaak Klein and Beile Mechlowicz Klein was Haya (Chaje Witte) born 17 December 1862. She married **Israel Turteltaub** who may have been born 24 July 1864.

(In LDS microfilmed Jewish records from Tarnow, I found a birth record for Israel Mendel Terkeltaub b 24 July 1864 in House 130. Israel's parents were Juda Michael and Channe Leib Terkeltaub. The midwife was Rosa Würzel and the witness: Mendel Herz. It is likely that this is the Israel Turteltaub who married Haya Klein, though the marriage record for Haya and Israel has not yet been found.)

Haya and Israel had eight children: **Sarah** born 6 Nov 1895; **Chaim; Leon**, born 1901; **Balka; Samuel; Salomon**, born 1904, and two others whose names are unknown. All these children died in World War II. The son Samuel married in 1920 Rywa Mirel Halpern, from Krakow, the daughter of Henz Halpern and Necha-Becha Lew. According to family sources, Samuel and Rywa had a child, who was living in Haifa in 1977.

HERMAN KLEIN

The second child and first son born was Abraham Hersch (Herman) Klein, b 22 Jun 1864, named for his grandfather Abraham. Herman (Abraham Hersch Klein) and **Breindel (Bertha) Kamholz** b 28 May 1869) were married on 18 Feb 1891 by Aron Halberstam in the presence of the witnesses Abraham Schlanger, the schames in Nowy Sacz, and Schaje Kleinberger, a merchant in Nowy Sacz. Herman's profession is listed as hatmaker.

On June 5/6 1898, some members of the Kamholz family arrived in New York on the ship *Bulgaria* to visit Philip Kamholz in Philadelphia. Listed with them on the ship's passenger list was a child, Heinrich Klein, age 11, said to be coming to visit his uncle Philip. This suggests that this child's parents would be Herman and Breindel, since Breindel was the only sister of Philip then married. However, since Herman and Breindel only married in 1891, and there is no family history of a Heinrich Klein, we believe this information to be misleading. In his naturalization application, Henry Kamholz stated that he had immigrated in 1898, and that he was born in 1885. It is most likely that this is the person referred to. Why he is recorded as Henry Klein (and 2 years younger than his actual age) and saying that he was coming to visit his uncle, rather than his brother, remains a mystery. The Kamholz family history is given in another document. Their permanent home was Nowy Sacz, Galicia.

Herman and Breindel had three children: **Erna or Eska**, born 17 March 1892. **Friedrich or Fishek**, born 1896 and **Samuel or Smilek** born 24 July 1897. According to Tarnow records, Breindel Kamholz Klein died 20 July 1898 from abdominal inflammation after childbirth. She was buried on 22 July 1898. Some of the Kamholz family remained in the United States: Jacob,

Ernestine (Esther) and Henry. The Kamholz parents and Helene returned to Nowy Sacz within the year.

Herman Klein's second wife was Breindel's younger sister **Hajcia**, known as **Helen**. (Another source gives her name as Hanna Marie). Helen was born 27 October 1874. Helen had accompanied her parents to Philadelphia in 1898; Her name is given as Helene on the passenger list. She returned with her parents to Nowy Sacz after their visit, and married Herman Klein on 20 Aug 1899 in Tarnow. Her name is given as Chane Kamholz and her age as 24 and 9 months. A note indicates that her birthdate from records in Nowy Sacz is 27 Oct 1874. The rabbi was Solomon J. Kurz and the witnesses were Chiel Reich, a merchant from Tarnow and Mayer Wundohl, a goldsmith from Tarnow. The first child of Herman and Helen was born 26 May 1900, and named **Bronia (Bronislawa)**, but she went by the name of Bronka. She was probably named for her Aunt Breindel, and was also known as Berta. **Emil**, the second child, was born 10 March 1902, and **Balbina (Balka)** was born 26 June 1903. Helen (Hacjia) Klein died 19 November 1907. The cause of Helen's death is unknown. We wonder if it was also from childbirth like her sister's death, or from some other cause. Helen was 33 when she died.

The birth and death dates of the two Kamholz sisters from documents are slightly different from those in a photograph of their tombstones. The earliest photograph of the Kamholz family appears to have been taken in 1889 or 1890, as Phillip has already immigrated to the United States.

Herman Klein's third wife was **Henrietta (Jettel) Lieberman**. Jettel was born 21 May 1873. She was divorced when she married Hersch on 10 May 1910. Jettel was the daughter of Moritz Liebermann and Pauline Kleemann. According to Mike Lieberman's research. Moritz Liebermann was born in 1848 and died in 1931 in Bielitz. He had one brother Dov Liebermann. Pauline (Paula) was the daughter of Emanuel (Menachem) Kleeman and Charlotte Koppler (Koepler?). Pauline was born in Jan 1849 in Breslau and died in 1926 in Bielitz. Moritz and Pauline had four children: Henrietta, Hedwig, Emil and Herman.

We include information from Mike Liebermann on Henrietta's siblings here.
[Hedwig Liebermann married Moritz Tramer and they had two children Edith and Fritz.]

[Emil Liebermann born in Katowice. He married Rosa Steinberg. Both died in the Holocaust.]

[Herman Liebermann was born on 15 January 1876 in Katowice and died on 1 Jan 1954 in Lima. He married Amalia Michels, daughter of Michael Michels and Berta Rosenthal, on 27 Nov 1903 in Frankfurt/Mainz. Amalia was born on 21 Jan 1878 in Rheinboellen, Germany and died on 21 Aug 1962 in Lima. The Liebermanns had four children: Eric Liebermann (21 Mar 1904-11 Feb 1997) (a dentist) first married Anneliese Weinstein (1912-1941). On 8 Jan

1955, Eric married Ruth Dattel (4 Nov 1910-12 Jun 2003). The second son, Heinz Liebermann (29 Mar 1908 in Duisburg, Germany-8 Apr 1992 in Lima, Peru.) Heinz Liebermann married Erna Neisser on 25 Jun 1939 in Lima Peru. Erna was born on 4 Dec 1909 in Hindenburg, Germany and died on 7 Jul 1974 in Lima, Peru. They had one child, Michael Miguel Liebermann born 10 May 1942 in Lima Peru, died 2010 in Toronto, Canada. Michael married Fania Verbelov on 2 Jan 1969 in Tel Aviv. Fania was born 17 Sep 1945 in Riga. Michael Liebermann and Fania had two children Renate born 19 Jan 1971 and Gail born 20 July 1973. Both were born in Tel Aviv. The third son of Herman and Amalia was Werner Lieberman (1 Dec 1912-29 Mar 1939) He was shot fleeing from the Nazis. The fourth child of Herman and Amalia died at birth.]

Henrietta married Julius Weiss perhaps in 1898. They had a son Erich Weiss (1899-1958) who married Ada Messinger. Erich and Ada lived in Paris. Henrietta and Julius divorced. There is a Julius Weiss buried in the Bielitz Cemetery. He was born 24 Nov 1863 and died in 1918. He was the son of Schulem Weiss and Ettel Feinshel from Tarnow. This may be Henrietta's first husband.

Henrietta was about 37 years old when she married Herman (Hersch) Klein and took on the care of six children, the three youngest being 10, 8, and 7. On 3 March 1911, Marcus (Max), the son of Herman and Henrietta was born, completing the family. Kurt Stern has postcards written by his Oma Henrietta in 1941. These letters indicate that in 1941 she was living in Tarnow, probably with her son Friedrich and his wife Margit Spitzer. It is highly likely that they were all murdered by the Nazis in 1942. According to Jenny Klein Meltzer, granddaughter of Henrietta, there were 2 versions of how Henrietta died. One was that she was sent to Theresienstadt and that she died there. The other was that she was shot in her apartment by Nazis. When Jenny's father was returning to Poland from Russia in 1946, he thought that his mother and brother were alive. It was quite a shock to find out that no one survived.

Herman Klein had a successful hat factory in Bielitz (Bielsko/Biala) where his family lived, not far from Tarnow. One relative reports that Henrietta had quite a time with the older children; but they all loved baby Max. Kurt Stern has his mother Bronka's school report cards in Polish. There are also photos of the 7 brothers and sisters and of the parents, Herman and Henrietta. Herman and Henrietta lived in Bielitz but did travel to the famous spa at Karlsbad in 1930. They went there for the "cure" as they grew older because both were overweight. One of their grandsons, Kurt Stern, remembers his grandparents visiting in Vienna. He also remembers visiting other relatives in Tarnow with his mother, Bronka. They went by train from Vienna; however, on the trip back, the tracks were flooded after a heavy rain, and they had to take a horse and wagon to a station farther along the line, an exciting event for a child of five or six who lived in Vienna. Herman Klein died 13 July 1934. (According to

the civil record of deaths in Bielsko-Biala, the date of death was 7 July 1934 at 6:15 a.m. This record also gives the date of Herman's birth as 15 July 1864 (See my note above) His last place of residence was ul. Mickiewicza 41 in Bielsko.

Kurt Stern remembers going with his mother to Bielitz, probably near the time of his grandfather's death. He remembers seeing him each day, and then one day being told he was gone. Kurt was then seven years old. He was not taken to the funeral, for his parents felt it would be too disturbing for him.

Herman-1 **ERNA (Eska) KLEIN EHRlich** born 17 March 1892 An abstracted record indicates that a child named Esther was born in 1892 to Breindel and Abraham Hersch Klein. Since Erna was also known as Eska, I am assuming this is the same person, as no other record of Erna Klein's birth has been found.

According to family members, Erna was the first child born to Herman and Breindel. Erna married Moses (Moritz) Ehrlich in 1913? Their only child, **Samuel (Milek)**, was born in 1914. They lived in _____. Milek immigrated to Israel when he was ____ years old in 19 ____ . There he took the name Shmuel ben Moshe (Samuel, the son of Moses). He married **Bella** _____ in 19 ____ . Shmuel and Bella lived in Tel Aviv. Shmuel's aunts and uncles were often in correspondence with him. He was not very well, and had difficulty holding a job. For a while he had a newspaper stand. Bronka Klein Stern often sent Shmuel packages of food, clothing, in addition to money. Shmuel died in 1977. His widow, Bella, who was around 80 years old in 1988, wanted to be independent. In 1988 she was living in Tel Aviv in an apartment which had been purchased by Shmuel's aunt, Balka Klein Rathaus. Jenny Klein Meltzer had been in touch with Bella and sent her money as well. Erna and Moritz were sent to a concentration camp during the Nazi occupation. So far efforts to learn of their whereabouts or date of death have been fruitless. A letter written to Bertha Klein Stern by Erna in 1941 through help of the Red Cross, says that she is fine, but she is worried because she has heard nothing from or about her husband Moritz.

Herman-2 **FRIEDRICH (Fishek) KLEIN** b 1896

Until the outbreak of World War II, Friedrich lived in Bielitz (Bielsko/Biala) where he was a successful merchant in the hat line, no doubt selling the hats made in his father's factory. We assume the two brothers (Friedrich and Samuel) went to work in their father's factory and that they ran the factory together following their father's death in 1934. According to his younger brother Emil, Friedrich had a really nice girlfriend named **Margit Spitzer**. He married her during the war and is said to have had a daughter. Friedrich was deported to the ghetto of Tarnow and is said to have been shot by the Germans. The last letter received by the Sterns in Newark from Margit Spitz c/o Fryderyk

Klein, living in Tarnow is dated 18 August 1941. We suspect that she too was killed by the Nazis.

Herman-3 **SAMUEL (Smilek) KLEIN** b 24 July 1897

As a child, Samuel suffered from a chronic bronchitis and often traveled with his sisters Bronia and Balbina and his Kamholz grandparents to Szczawnica, a well-known health resort situated in the Tatra mountains, about 30-40 km from Nowy Sacz where the Kamholzes lived. The grandparents went every summer to this health resort which was famous in that part of the world for its effective cures against all sorts of chest ailments. While there, they drank koumiss or mare's milk. During World War I, Samuel served in the Austrian Army and became an officer. Poland was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the year 1918, after the collapse of this empire, Samuel joined the Polish Army during the war against the Bolsheviks led by Trotsky. Until the outbreak of World War II, Samuel lived in Bielitz (Bielsko/Biala) at ul. Barlickiego 17. He ran the family hat factory with his brother Friedrich. During World War II, after Poland was occupied by the Germans, Samuel tried to save his life by crossing the Russian frontier together with his youngest brother, Max. They were caught and deported. Samuel went to Tashkent where he caught typhus from which he died in Bukhara on 30 June 1943, according to a statement filed by Max (Markus) Klein in 1949.

Herman-4 **BRONISLAWA (Bronka)(Bronia)Bertha KLEIN STERN** b 26 May 1900

Bronia was the first child born to Herman Klein and his second wife, Hacjia. Her report cards show that she was a good student. She knew several languages: Polish, German, French, and later learned English. She also played piano and loved music. As a young woman, she worked in a bank in Bielitz. She and a group of female friends enjoyed hiking. Kurt Stern has a picture of this hiking group. In 1924 a friend of the family was married. One of the members of the wedding party was Desiderius Daniel Stern born 27 July 1893 in Vienna. Deszi was probably the best man in the wedding party, since the groom was Deszi's business partner. Bronia and Deszi corresponded after their meeting for about a year before they were married on 6 September 1925. The honeymoon trip was to Italy. Kurt has a photograph of the newlyweds in St. Mark's Square. They also stayed at Lake Como. Deszi was a chemist with a Ph.D. from the Polytechnic Institute of Vienna which he received 19 July 1920. During World War I, probably because he had an engineering degree, Deszi was assigned, as a military officer, to a munitions factory which turned out shell casings. Since the Central Powers were short of brass, church bells were collected from all over the empire to be melted down. Since the bells are made of bronze, not brass, they had to be melted down and separated into their

constituent parts. Deszi's job was to sample and analyze these bells, which arrived by the trainload, and to work out chemical separation techniques. He used this work as the basis for his doctoral dissertation. Bronia and Deszi lived in Vienna, Austria, where Deszi had a small business which produced products used in the shoe industry: dyes, glues, waxes, and the like.

The Stern's first home was a small fourth-floor apartment on Kreindlgasse. Their first child, Kurt Heinz Stern, was born 26 December 1926. A second son, Erich Wolfgang Stern, named for the composer Erich Wolfgang Korngold, was born 4 November 1930. Later the Sterns lived in a larger apartment in Rudolfiner Gasse. This flat had a room for a live-in housekeeper. The Stern grandparents as well as Deszi's brothers and sister also lived in Vienna. Bronia's cousin, Smilek Klein, also lived in Vienna with his wife Regina. Kurt remembers seeing their daughter Eva as a baby, when he was four or five years old. Eva Klein was also born in 1930. As a young child, Kurt already knew the numbers on the trams in Vienna and where they went. He also liked to explore the countryside. One vacation trip was spent in the country. While there Kurt would go out early to walk in the nearby woods where he often saw women mushroom gatherers or farmers bringing produce to the market. On one of his morning walks, he slipped at the edge of a pond and fell into the water. No one was around to help, but by flailing his arms about, he managed to stay afloat, learning to swim after a fashion. Usually, during each summer, Bronia and the two boys would spend each day at the local swimming pool. Desi would join them there after work, and the maid would bring their dinner to the pool in a tin caddy with numerous compartments. Kurt's elementary school was Silbergasse. He then attended BG19 on Gymnasiumstrasse for a year until Jewish students were told to leave.

Kurt remembers visits to his Klein grandparents in Bielitz and their visits to Vienna. There were also trips to Tarnow to visit other relatives. Bronia's sister, Balka, often visited Vienna, and after she married and moved to Yugoslavia, Kurt spent the entire summer of 1936 (he was 9 ½ years old) with his Aunt and Uncle Josef in Zagreb. He kept a diary or tagebuch during his visit. Kurt began piano lessons when he was five or six, even though the Sterns had no piano. He practiced on the teacher's piano. Bronia realized the teacher was not particularly good, for when the yearly recital occurred, not one student played a piece through without an error. She was too polite to change teachers, however.

Life for the Sterns changed drastically when the Nazis occupied Austria. Plans were being made to move to Argentina where other relatives were also planning to immigrate, so the family was studying Spanish. Once storm troopers came to the house and took Bronia away with them. The children didn't know whether they would see her again. She was made to scrub floors in the officer's quarters, but she was permitted to return home.

Kurt was bullied at school and dared not retaliate. Finally, Jewish children were not permitted to come to school at all. Deszi was ambivalent about leaving Vienna, where his family and business were. While waiting for visas to Argentina, the Sterns learned that they could obtain visas for the United States where Bronia's relatives on the Kamholz side of the family sponsored them. The story of how Balka Klein Rathaus purchased their passage on the ship, by traveling to Switzerland, is told in her account.

Because the Sterns were allowed to take only 10 Marks each and four crates when they left Vienna, they had to sell most of their possessions. Everything that went into the crates had to be approved by a government inspector to make certain no "national treasure" was being taken out. Even Kurt's stamp collection was examined. Neighbors and others who had heard they were leaving came to the apartment to buy "bargains." Prices people offered were far below the actual value, since they knew the Sterns had to sell. Not knowing quite what would be needed in the States, the Sterns brought featherbeds, nut and coffee grinders and gram scales, along with linens, dishes, clothing and other personal items. The feather-beds were much too warm for the steam-heated apartments where they lived in the U.S. However, we have since put them to good use. Since the money they received for selling their possessions was useless outside Austria, they gave it to relatives. When the Sterns had to vacate their apartment, they moved in with the Stern Grandparents creating very crowded conditions and difficulties because of food rationing.

Bronia and Deszi tried to take the Stern grandparents with them to the United States, but because the grandfather had been born near Budapest, Hungary and the grandmother was from Czechoslovakia, even though they'd lived most of their lives in Vienna, they were considered Hungarian, and the Hungarian U.S. quota was filled. After his arrival in New Jersey in November 1939, Deszi tried repeatedly to obtain permission for his parents to come, as well as to get information about them. They were deported to Theresienstadt where they died in 1942, either from natural causes or through starvation.

The four Sterns arrived in New York in November 1939 and lived for three months with Bronia's cousin, Helen Hornstein Cole, and her family in Ft. Lee, New Jersey. Deszi found employment with Pilar Company, as Mr. Pilar was interested in the formulas Deszi had used in his Viennese business. Bronia found work in a Charms candy factory, wrapping the individual pieces of candy. Later she worked as a tinter in Lorstan's photographic studio. For many years the family lived at 624 High Street in Newark, New Jersey, later moving to East Orange. Deszi died in Hollywood, Florida on 2 February 1968 while undergoing surgery. Bronia was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1965, had surgery and radiation, but died 29 March 1970 from lung cancer in New Jersey.

Following World War II, through the efforts of Herta Jackel, manager of Deszi's business in Vienna, the ownership of the business was returned to Deszi, though he only returned to Vienna to visit. Following Bronia's death, the business was sold and Herta retired.

(Bronia-1) **Kurt Heinz Stern** b. 26 December 1926

Kurt had already completed two years of study at Drew College in Madison, New Jersey, where he had a scholarship, when he had his 18th birthday and was drafted into the United States Army. Following basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, he was sent to study electrical engineering at Clemson University in South Carolina. When that program was discontinued, he was sent to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia for three months. Only a bout with mumps prevented him from being sent with his unit to Japan. Instead he was sent to Heidelberg, Germany, where he was an interpreter for an officer and later, because of his German language ability and information gained as an interpreter, he was placed in the U.S. Counter Intelligence Corps, in charge of locating and questioning former SS officers and soldiers.

Following his honorable discharge from the army, Kurt completed his B.S. in Chemistry at Drew, graduating in 1948. He received an M.S. from the University of Michigan in 1950, where he also won the Turner Prize in Chemistry. He was awarded a Ph.D. from Clark University in 1953. His first appointment, in 1952, was as a research chemist at the Institute of Science and Technology in Fayetteville, Arkansas. At the same time he also taught courses for the Chemistry Department at the University of Arkansas. When the Institute closed in 1953, Kurt joined the chemistry department as a full-time Assistant Professor. He became an Associate Professor in 1957. While at the University he met Faith Elaine Bueltmann, a graduate student in the English Department, who shared his interests in music, outdoor activities, and travel. In 1959, Kurt spent a sabbatical year in Washington, D.C. at the National Bureau of Standards as a National Research Council Fellow. He was offered a permanent position the following year at the Bureau, and remained there until 1968, when a reduction in force eliminated the entire electrochemistry section.

In 1968, following three months of teaching Chemistry to college teachers in India for the National Science Foundation, Kurt was able to visit his Uncle Max and his family in Melbourne, Australia. They had not seen each other for over 30 years. On his return to the United States, Kurt took a position at the Naval Research Laboratory where he continued research, writing and presenting numerous papers in his field of high temperature molten salts. In 1964 he was invited by the Romanian Academy of Sciences to give lectures there. In 1988-89 he worked at an Australian Government Laboratory in Melbourne, as part of an exchange program between the two governments. Since his retirement in 1990 he has written two scientific reference books. Beginning in the 1980's his

musical compositions have been performed by professional musicians at concerts in the Washington D.C. area where he lives. Kurt is an avid outdoors enthusiast enjoying hiking, mountaineering, skiing, and canoeing. Kurt and Faith live in Takoma Park, Maryland.

On 10 June 1960, Kurt married **Faith Bueltmann** born 27 June 1934. Faith taught English Literature and Composition at Valparaiso University in Indiana and Wartburg College in Iowa before her marriage. She was a Science Education Specialist at the National Science Foundation and a writer-editor and copyright examiner for the Library of Congress. She has published several newsletters and led a successful struggle for retaining two schools in Takoma Park. She holds a B.A. from Pacific Lutheran University, an M.A. from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. from George Washington University. She plays flute, recorder, and piano, and has performed as a singer and actress in amateur theatre productions. Some of her short stories, poems and photographs have been published. After she retired, she compiled two family histories: *Wise Guys* in 1996 and *Lots of Loys* 1995 and 2007. In 2004 she wrote and published a travel narrative, *Getting There with Faith: Adventures of a Travel Addict*. She is also an amateur genealogist, completing *The Stern Family of Papa, Hungary* in 2017, updating *The Klein Family of Tarnow, Poland* in 2017 as well as *The Kamholz Family of Nowy Sacz*.

Kurt and Faith have two children: **Karen Rebekah Stern** and **Alan Jonathan Stern**.

(Bronia-2) **Eric Wolfgang Stern** 4 November 1930

Eric, the second son of Bronia and Deszi, was named for the Viennese composer Eric Wolfgang Korngold. Eric received his B.S. in Chemistry from Syracuse University in 1951. He completed his Ph.D. at Northwestern University in 1954. He worked as a research chemist for Kellogg Company for many years, for Texaco Oil Company at one time, and was employed by Engelhard Company for many years where he worked on anti-cancer compounds and headed a research group before his retirement. Eric has published many scientific papers and has given many talks at National and International conferences. He is co-author on a large number of patents. He was an avid skier and a former mountain climber. In the 1960s, several of his articles on skiing were published in *Ski Magazine*. He also wrote several short stories and a novel. In 2011, *Blackberries*, a collection of these stories and some written by Pat in 1960 were edited and published by Faith Stern. Eric also enjoyed playing tennis and gardening. He and his wife Pat lived in Mountainside, New Jersey. In later years, Eric had heart and lung problems. He died probably from a heart attack on 13 October 2011.

On 3 November 1960 Eric married **Patsy Adams Shaler**. They, along with Pat's son Michael, born 1952, lived for several years in East Orange, New

Jersey. Pat worked for a radio station in Poughkeepsie, New York before her marriage. She has also worked as a counselor/manager for a temporary employment agency, for a trucking firm, and for many years she did volunteer brailing of textbooks and other reading materials for the State of New Jersey. She also taught brailing to others. She was also paid to produce braille college textbooks. She was a skilled tennis player and a gourmet cook. Pat developed COPD from smoking cigarettes and died 22 April 2010.

Herman-5 **EMIL (Emilio) KLEIN** born 10 March 1902

Emil lived in Warsaw, Poland where he was the Odeon representative. His secretary was **Irene Goldman**, born 22 August 1907. Barbara Karasinski, Emil's cousin, reported that during the war, Emil came to her house in Lwow, asking for help in leaving the country. He had somehow procured a uniform to use as a disguise. Barbara was afraid the Nazis might come looking for him at her home because of their family connection; so she sent him to a friend's house. The army officers did come and ask if Emil Klein was there. Barbara truthfully answered no, and they moved on, fortunately not asking any other questions. Emil introduced Irene to Barbara as his girlfriend. Shortly afterwards Emil and Irene were married. From Poland, he and Irene went to Tokyo with connections from Odeon and from there to Shanghai and from there to the United States. They had hoped to stay in the United States permanently, but U.S. immigration would not allow them to do so. After staying with Emil's sister, Bronia Stern, her husband and two sons in the Stern's one-bedroom apartment for six months in (1944?), they went first to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where Irene had cousins. They lived there for a few months before moving permanently to Buenos Aires, Argentina where Emil's younger sister, Balbina and her husband, Josef Rathaus, lived. Emil found employment with the Siemens Company.

Emil and Irene traveled to Israel and Europe with Deszi and Bronka Stern in 1960. They were again in Israel in 1967 where they met their niece, Jenny Klein from Australia, before they came to the United States where they visited Bronia and Deszi and Deszi's sister Charlotte Perry who lived in Hollywood, Florida. They also visited their nephew Kurt and his family, a few days after Alan was born. In December 1962 Kurt and Faith had visited Emil and Irene in Buenos Aires for several days. In 1979 Herman Klein from Australia visited Emil and Irene, and he returned in 1983 with his wife, Mary. Irene was already ill in 1979 with an imbalance problem. She also had a heart condition. She died 24 March 1983. Emil also was not very well in 1983 when Herman and Mary visited. He died in May of 1988.

Emil was a very gracious, kind yet urbane man. He was very well liked. He was fluent in several languages: Polish, German, Spanish, and English. He had a very pleasant manner and went out of his way to make certain everything

was taken care of properly for visiting relatives. He provided much of the information on the earliest relatives in letters, as well as addresses of cousins in Israel.

Herman-6 **BAILA (Balbina)(Balka)Blanca KLEIN RATHAUS** born 26 June 1903

Balka, the youngest of Hajcia's three children, married **Józef Rathaus** on 3 August 1933. Jozef was born 1 April 1902, the son of Baruch Markus Rathaus and Cidel Sichter Rathaus. Jozef was born in Rawa Ruska and lived in Karlowiec, Yugoslavia before his marriage. Balka and Josef lived in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. They were sports-minded, skiing and riding horses. Balka was very attractive, despite having acne and liked to dress well. She often visited her sister in Vienna. When Kurt Stern was 9 ½, he traveled to Zagreb to stay with his Aunt and Uncle for most of the summer. He traveled on the train with an older man who was a relative of Josef. In a diary he kept of the trip, he recorded all the food he ate, an interest even then, and the activities of the day. He recalls being impressed by the dark plums at the market. He liked staying with his favorite Aunt.

In 1939 when the Stern family was trying to leave Vienna, their passage on the Italian ship, *Saturnia*, had to be paid before they would be permitted to leave Vienna. German Marks were not acceptable, as they were worthless outside Germany. Consequently, Balka took the train from Zagreb to Switzerland where she did the necessary transactions and purchased the tickets. There was either some question about her passport, or she feared she might be detained or sent back, perhaps because the border was being closed off. Whatever the reason, either by chance, good luck, or perhaps an intuitive perception, Balka was in the Ladies' toilet when officials came by to check passports. As a result, she was never asked to show hers, and she completed the trip without incident—enabling her sister and family to escape. The Italian ship was moving from Trieste to Genoa, and the Sterns had to be in Genoa on the day it docked, if they were to leave. Yet they could not leave Vienna until they received word that the passage had been paid. If Balka had been delayed, they would have missed the ship, the last one they could have sailed on.

Shortly thereafter, Balka and Josef moved from Zagreb to Portugal, and then to Buenos Aires, Argentina where Josef owned or was a partner in a successful business in egg powder byproducts, such as chemicals. (Barbara Karasinski said that Balka and Josef went to Argentina with illegal passports, under names other than their own.) While driving his sports car, Josef was killed in a collision with a truck in 1952? Balka never remarried. She traveled widely visiting her sister in New Jersey, her brother Max and family in Melbourne, her nephew Kurt in Maryland in 1964, and relatives in Israel. When Kurt and Faith visited her in Buenos Aires in 1962, we had a lovely New Year's Eve

celebration, complete with Champagne at her apartment. She took us shopping for leather gloves and woodcarvings. She sent Karen and Alan matched sets of knitted blue outfits in 1968, when she came to stay with Bronia for a few months after Desi's death. During a visit to Australia, while sightseeing with the Kleins, Balka was able to touch a Koala just by the side of the road.

When Herman Klein visited Balka in 1979, she was not well and needed a companion to stay with her. In 1983 when Mary and Herman visited, her condition had declined, and she had difficulty communicating with them. She died in 1986.

Herman-7 **MARKUS (Max) KLEIN** born 3 March 1911

The youngest child of Herman Klein and the only child Herman and Henrietta Lieberman had together was Markus or Max, born on 3 March 1911. Max was a favorite of his older brothers and sisters. He often visited in Vienna where his older sister Bronia lived. His nephew, Kurt, remembers him as a University Student. He received his engineering degree from the German Higher School of Technics in Prague in 1935/36. Max studied engineering and later worked as a ceramics engineer. He also loved music and played piano.

During World War II, after Poland was occupied by the Nazis, Max tried to cross the Russian border with his older brother Smilek. They were caught and deported (where?) Max was put into a work camp in Uzbekistan. It was there that he met **Malka Abramowitsz**, daughter of David Abramowicz and Cywia Brauer Abramowicz, a refugee from Jaun Jelgava (near Riga, Latvia) born 25 November 1914. They were married 1 December 1941. Their first child, **(Dzeni) Jenny**, was born 18 April 1946 in Langar, Zirabulak, district of Samarkand, USSR. In ____ the family moved back to Bielitz, and then to Walbrzych, Poland. Max and Mali's second child, **Herman**, was born 16 February 1950 in Walbrzych. The Kleins had been planning to move permanently to Israel. They had applied six times for visas and had been turned down. Then they heard from Mr. Weiss (Mr. White), who was living in Melbourne, Australia, and who had been a close friend of Max Klein when both lived in Tarnow, that a first cousin, Barbara Klein Karasinski was also living in Melbourne, along with her brothers Roman and Henry.

In 1958 the Kleins sailed for Melbourne from Trieste on the *SS Toscana* arriving in Fremantle on 10 April 1958. The voyage took several weeks. Jenny Meltzer remembers a Seder held on board and a rabbi and his family of many children. A baby was born during the voyage. When the ship stopped at Fremantle, everyone was eager to go ashore. Jenny had to stay on board the ship because she had a fever. However, nothing was said, as otherwise no one would have been permitted to disembark. Small boats were taking people to shore where buses took them into the town. What Jenny did not know was that

earlier refugees, now settled in Fremantle, had come to meet the ship in their private cars to be of help to the new arrivals. Her parents and her brother Herman had gone with one of these friendly families and had purchased and were given other supplies. Jenny waited feverishly and anxiously as the other passengers returned to the ship in time for its scheduled departure at midnight. But her parents and brother weren't with the rest. She was afraid the ship would leave, and she would be left alone in a foreign country at eleven years of age. At the last moment they arrived explaining everything and bringing a great sense of relief to the little girl. She was disappointed about one thing. When she asked her father what Australians looked like, she expected to hear of something quite different, since Australia was so far from Poland. He told her they looked just like everyone else.

Barbara Karasinski remembers that Max's siblings, Bronka, Balka, and Emil each sent \$150 to Australia to help Max and his family get established there. She said Max brought an entire suitcase full of books he intended to sell in Australia. She remembers him as being very fat and having a lovely smile. The Kleins settled in Melbourne where Max was employed as a Ceramics engineer. Kurt Stern visited the family in 1968 on his way home from India. Max Klein had a heart condition. He died on 10 November 1970.

Mali Klein, his widow, married **Les (Leslie) Leske**, a widower, in 1979. Les was born in Riga, Latvia in 1913. He came to Australia with his family in 1926. He worked in the clothing industry in the knitwear business. Mali died 17 March 2004 and Les died in 2006.

(Max-1) **Jenny Klein Meltzer** b 18 April 1946

In 1967 Jenny Klein made a round-the-world trip visiting relatives in Israel, France, and the United States. She stayed with her Aunt Bronka and Uncle Deszi in New Jersey for about six months, visiting Eric and Pat Stern during that time. She also spent about a month with Kurt and Faith Stern in Maryland, traveling to the Montreal World's Fair with the family and spending a week in New England with them and Kurt's parents at Lake Mascoma in Enfield Corners, New Hampshire. Following her return to Melbourne, she worked in an office in downtown Melbourne. Brought together by a mutual friend when both were invited to a wedding celebration, Jenny Klein and **Ian Meltzer** from New Zealand, b 5 September 1925, were married on 25 November 1969. Ian was a pharmacist (chemist) and Jenny assisted him in their pharmacy or chemist's shop which was located in the Melbourne suburb of Carnegie. After selling the shop, Ian worked part time at a pharmaceutical supply house for a time. He enjoys gardening and playing lawn bowls. Jenny worked as a teacher's aide at an orthodox Hebrew school for a while. Jenny and Ian spent six weeks in June 2000 touring and visiting relatives in the United States. They have also enjoyed many trips throughout the world.

Jenny and Ian have two children: **Maxine Meltzer** and **Martin Meltzer**

(Max-2) **Herman Klein** b 16 February 1950

Herman Klein, Max and Mali's second child was born 16 February 1950. Herman has made two world-wide trips to visit relatives. His first trip was taken in 1979 following his graduation from Monash University where he received his degree in accounting. He visited relatives in Poland, Israel, France, Russia, the United States, and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1983 he made a second trip with his wife of one year, **Mary Gerst**, born 18 June 1952. Herman and Mary were married 6 June 1982. This trip included visits to Mary's relatives also living in various parts of the world. On their return, after nine months of traveling, Herman studied law and economics while tutoring in accounting. Mary was a physician, receiving her medical degree from Melbourne University. In 1989 she was specializing in Family Planning Clinics and had extensive experience with Drug and Alcohol Clinics as well. She subsequently retired to spend more time with their growing family. She later became quite interested in growing fruits and vegetables and completed a degree in that area. Herman was a property manager, founding and owning Victoria Body Corporate, located in Caulfield, a Melbourne suburb. Herman recently retired. They have been much involved in developing an orchard on land they purchased near Warburton.

Herman and Mary have three children: **Markus Klein, Eva Klein** and **Hannah Klein**.

ELIAS KLEIN

Elias Klein, the third child, and second son of Jitzhok and Balbina Klein was born 22 February 1866. He worked as a . In 1895 he married **Dora (Dwora) Bandrowskie (Brand)**. They lived in Tarnow. Elias and Dora had five children: **Smilek (Samuel)** b. 30 August 1896, **Hella**, born , **Rozia (Regina)**, born 1902, **Balbina** born 1904 and **Igo**, b 1915. We have a letter from Elias Klein, dated 24 March 1941, from Tarnow, so we suspect he and his wife were killed by the Nazis in 1942 in Tarnow.

Elias-1 **SMILEK (Samuel) KLEIN** born 30 August 1896

Smilek (Samuel) Klein b 30 Aug 1896 married on 10 April 1927 **Regina (Rebekah) Reinharz** b 22 June 1903. Regina (Rebekah), the daughter of Leib and Ettel Reinharz was born in Kalusch, Poland. Smilek and Regina lived in Vienna where Smilek sold men's ready to wear. According to Regina's journal, she and Smilek (or Sam) met at a modeling school. Smilek was about 6 feet tall, blonde, with broad shoulders and good posture. He had a smooth complexion and a well-contoured face. At the time he was the only male model working for Mr. Oslo, who ran the school. Smilek was the best model in the

city. He was not a student there like Regina, he was the one who demonstrated what the teacher wanted to show the other students. He was wearing a thin, navy blue pinstriped suit with a white shirt and a red polka-dot tie with a matching handkerchief, fluffed in a special way in his jacket pocket. He had an attractive smile with dimples. Regina and Samuel dated for a short time before Samuel asked for her hand in marriage. They were married in Vienna by Rabbi Josef Bach. Their daughter **Eva** was born in 1930. Kurt Stern remembers seeing Eva as a baby. He was then 4 years old and had a baby brother, Eric, the same age as Eva. The second cousins often played together.

Like other Klein family members, this family, too, left Vienna in order to survive. At the end of 1938, Smilek, Regina and Eva went first to Paris where they stayed with Smilek's sister, Rozia and her husband Isaac (Srulek) Beitsch for about a year. Eva was sent to Bern, Switzerland to a camp for refugees in Bergdorf during the summer of 1939. On October 26, 1939, the family sailed on the S.S. *Washington* from Le Verdon, France. The Ship's Passenger List states that Regina was born in Kalusch, Poland, that her last place of residence was Paris, France where her passport or visa was issued September 21, 1939. Smilek was born in Tarnow, Poland. The family spoke English and French. In the United States the Kleins owned a general merchandise store in Brooklyn named Klein's On Broadway, where they both worked. For many years they lived at 70-09 173rd St. in Flushing, New York. Regina died 7 September 1964. Smilek died 27 June 1980.

(Smilek) **Eva Marcelle Klein Marquise** b 12 August 1930

Eva attended New York University in New York City. On 27 December 1952 she married **Edward Marquise, the son of Jeik Marquisee and Martan Rosenkranz**. Eddie was born 13 Sep 1921 in Eydtkuhnen, Germany. Eva and Eddie had one child, **Diana**, born 7 May 1954.

Edward and his brother were from Lithuania. Eddie's family name was originally **Tschichak**, and his first name was Elchonon, rather than Eddie. Edward's father was a good friend of or was the mayor of the town where they lived. In 1939, when the Nazis invaded, Edward and his brother were sent to Dachau, but they were permitted to work in the kitchen, where they were able to get food and from which they eventually were liberated in 1945. Edward was a buyer/manager for a chain of department stores in New York for many years. Eva worked part time at a hospital for many years. She enjoys horseback riding and has owned several horses. After living for many years in Flushing, New York, Eddie and Eva moved to Oyster Bay, Long Island amidst trees in a town called Locust Valley. Eddie died December 21, 1991.

Elias-2 **HELLA KLEIN BUCHOLZ** born

Hella married **Bucholz** in ?

Elias-3 **RÓZIA (Regina) KLEIN BEITSCH** born 1902

Rózia married **Srulek Israel Beitsch**. They moved to Paris in _____. They had no children. Eva Klein Marquise visited her aunt frequently, and Jenny Klein stayed with Rózia on her trip in 1967. Herman and Mary Klein visited her also. Srulek died in 1985. Rózia died in November 1991.

Elias-4 **Balbina Klein** born 1904

No further information except record of her birth. She may be the same as Hella above, as we found no record of Hella's birth.

Elias-5 **IGO (Yitchok) KLEIN** born 19 Jan 1915

Igo Klein married **Bronka (Edna) Bach**, b 30 Dec 1916. They left Tarnow in 1942, immigrating to Israel, where they lived for 18 years. Igo worked as a truck driver in Israel. The Kleins came to the United States in 1960 and lived in Forest Hills, New York until they moved to Florida. Their two children, **Dorith** and **Eli** were born in Israel. Bronka died 25 Jun 2006 and Igo died 24 Feb 2010.

LIEBE KLEIN WEISS

The fourth child and second daughter of Jitzhok and Baila, Liebe Klein, was born 22 February 1868. She married Wolf Weiss on ____ in _____. They lived in Tarnow and had six children: **Szajek, Ulek, Romek, Emil, Srulek**, and **Balka**. Jewish Gen records for Tarnow list the following children who died young: Herman, 1900-1903, Chawa Gitel 1901-1902 (10 months old), and Samuel 1903-1903 (1 and ½ months old).

Liebe-1 **SZAJEK WEISS (Osias?)** born 1903

Szajek left Poland during the war. He went to France where he died in 1972 or 1973.

Liebe-2 **ULEK WEISS** born 1906?

Ulek married _____ on _____. They had one daughter named _____ who was born and died _____. Ulek died in 1944 in Argentina. Did Ulek go to Buenos Aires and was Balka Klein there at the time. Did he see her?

Liebe-3 **ROMEK (ABRAHAM) WEISS** born 1 March 1907

Romek lived in _____ where he worked as a _____. He married Sonia _____ born 20 June 1911 on _____. Romek and Sonia had two sons: **Chaim**, born 22 July 1942

and **Zeev**, born 7 June 1946. Romek and Sonia immigrated to Tel Aviv Israel in . Sonia Weiss died from cancer on 13 October 1978.

(Romek-1) **Chaim Weiss** b 22 July 1942

Chaim married **Rachel** born 17 May 1943 on . They have two children: **Danny**, born 5 April 1971 and **Dafna**, born 6 November 1973. Chaim is in the import-export business and is frequently in the United States. In 1980 Kurt Stern was in Israel for a conference. On the way he stopped in Tel Aviv where he met and stayed with these cousins. In 1981, Chaim and Rachel were in Maryland and visited the Sterns. In 1984, Chaim and Danny visited with Kurt and Alan Stern when the Weisses were traveling in the U.S. for Danny's Bar Mitzvah trip.

(Romek-2) **Zeev Weiss** b 7 June 1946

Zeev Weiss married **Yonith** b. 27 December 1953 on . Their son, **Elam** was born 16 January 1979. Zeev is a lawyer (Advocat) and Yonith is a harpsichordist, teaching at the University and concertizing. Kurt also visited them in 1980 in Tel Aviv.

Liebe-4 **EMIL WEISS** born 1908

Emil Weiss married **Bluma** born on . They emigrated to Tel Aviv, Israel in from . Emil and Bluma have two children: a son, **Yoram** and a daughter **Rifka**.

Liebe-5 **SRULEK WEISS** born

The only information we have about Srulek is that he lived in Toulouse, France.

Liebe-6 **BALKA WEISS BLONDER** 1905-1942

Balka married **Yitzchak Blonder** born . They lived in Tarnow. Balka died in the war with her children, Asher 1930-1942 and Reuven 1934-1942. Mr. Blonder remarried and lived in Natanya, Israel. He died there in 1977.

JOSEPH KLEIN

Birth Records from Tarnow show that Joseph, son of Jitzhok and Baila Klein was born on 16 April 1869. We have no further information about him.

CHAIM SIMON KLEIN

Chaim Klein the sixth child and fourth son of was born 20 Oct 1870 or 1871. He worked as a . In 1897 in Rzezow, Carolina's home, Chaim married **Kreindel (Carolina) Scheinback**, born in 1878, the daughter of Mechel Scheinback and Sprinze Sporn. They lived in _____. Chaim and Caroline had seven children: **Jonas, Samuel, Berta, Balka, Elias, Michel***, and **Hannah***.

Chaim-1 **JONAS KLEIN** 1899-1900
Jonas died when he was 1 year and 1 month old

Chaim-2 **SAMUEL KLEIN** born 1900

_____ Samuel Klein was born . He lived in _____ and worked as a . He married **Hella** from Senokia in _____. She was born _____ and died _____. They had two children **Michel** and **Hannah** who both died of tuberculosis* (One family source claims that Michel and Hannah were children of Chaim and Carolina. No records have been found to settle this question.)

On _____ the widower Samuel married **Cesia (Celine)** in Israel. She was born _____. Samuel and Cesia had two children: **Caroline (Carmella) Klein** and **Chaim (Henry) Klein**

(Samuel-1) **Caroline (Carmella) Klein Eisenberg** b 1947
Caroline married **Pini Eisenberg**, b _____ on _____. They have two children: **Leor**, born 5 June 1977 and **Tal** born 6 April 1981. For several years they lived in London, but they returned to Israel in _____.

(Samuel-2) **Chaim (Henry) Klein** b 22 July 1951

Chaim moved from Israel to London in _____. He works as a _____. On _____ he married **Gilda Jackson**, born 4 September 1951. They have two children: **Melissa Samantha** born 1 June 1979 and **Daniel** born 25 December 1981.

Chaim-3 **BERTA KLEIN** born 1902

This may be the same person as Balbina, as we have not found a record showing Balbina's birth.

Chaim-4 **BALBINA (Balka) (Lucia) KLEIN TANZER ENOCH** born

Balka was born and lived in . She married **Israel Tanzer** on . They had two daughters. Both daughters and their father died in the war. Balka Klein Tanzer then married again, but her second husband died in Belgium. Balka moved to London in ____ , where she married ____ **Enoch** in ____ . The Enochs lived in a suburb outside London. Bronka and Deszi Stern visited the Enochs on the European trip in 1960. About 1968, Mr. Enoch died. Balka Enoch subsequently moved to Israel where she died in 1974.(?)

Chaim-5 **ELIAS KLEIN** born 1904

No further information beyond the record of his birth in Tarnow.

Chaim-6 and -7 **MICHEL KLEIN AND HANNAH KLEIN**

Both Michel and Hannah died of tuberculosis. They may be the children of Samuel (see above).

SALOMON KLEIN

The youngest child of Jitzhok and Balbina, Salomon, was born 18 March 1884. He lived in Tarnow, where he owned a wholesale building materials business, selling cement, bricks, etc. He also handled coal, having a contract with the mine under which he had exclusive rights for Tarnow, and thus a monopoly on this line as well. In 1906 or 1907 he married **Helena or Hella** Tannenbaum, born in 1890 in Tarnow. Salomon and Hella had five children: **Roman (Abraham)** b , **Szajek (Charles)** b 19 Nov 1910, **Ignacy** b , **Balbina (Basia)** b and **Henek (Henry)** b 1919.

Salomon, his brothers Herman, Elias, Chaim and his sisters Liebe and Haya had a meeting in which they agreed they all would name one of their daughters after their mother Balka (Balbina). All the wives insisted that although the daughters might be called Balka, Balbina would be the name given on the birth certificates. Several of the daughters who were named Balka did not like that name, so they chose their own names. Balka Klein Rathaus became Blanca when she moved to Argentina. Balka Klein Enoch became Lucia, and Balka Klein Karasinski became Barbara or Basia.

Salomon Klein died in 1935. During the war, Hella Klein was sent to a camp in Siberia. After the war, she tried to locate her daughter Basia. When she heard that someone had seen Basia in Krakow, she made her way there with her son Roman. Her son, Henry, made the long trip to Siberia looking for his mother, only to learn, when he arrived, that she was gone with her son Roman to Krakow.

Hella married **Samuel Borer**, a widower, in 194-. Mr. Borer lost his wife and children in the concentration camp. When he was in the same camp, he had the job of repairing shoes to be used by persons still living. One day he was given the shoes of his own children.

After Basia and Tad Karasinski moved to Stuttgart, Hella and Samuel joined them there, later moving to Melbourne. After Mr. Borer died in Melbourne, in __, Hella lived independently until she moved to Montefiore, a senior citizen's residence. She died in 1980 at the age of 90 years.

Salomon-1 **(ROMAN) ABRAHAM KLEIN** born 1908?

Roman Klein, the first child of Salomon and Hella was born in _____. He lived in Tarnow, where he worked in the building trade. In ____ he married **Lotka** born in Russia. Their only child, **George Klein** was born in 1942. In 1946, Roman, Lotka, and George moved to Stuttgart, Germany where Roman's sister Basia Karasinski and her husband Tad were living. Roman's close friend, Edu Wang also came to Stuttgart. Edu's wife Frieda and their daughter Blanya, later came to Stuttgart from Paris.

Roman died in Stuttgart from kidney disease in 1950. In _____ his widow, Lotka and their son George moved to Melbourne, Australia. Lotka then married **Mr. Feierman** in _____. Mr. Feierman died in 1972. Lotka lived in Melbourne at the Montefiore senior citizen's residence until her death in ?

(Roman) **George Klein** b 1942

George was born in Krakow and moved with his parents to Stuttgart in 1946 and in the 1950s to Melbourne. George completed his degree in dentistry in _____ at Melbourne University. He practiced dentistry in Melbourne, after living for several years in London. Currently he is involved in managing a Sleep Clinic to help people who suffer from sleep apnea and other sleeping disorders. In _____ he married **Mary Goldstein** who was also born in Poland. George and Mary have three children: **Andre** and the twins **Robert** and **Zoe**. In 1989, George and Mary separated and were later divorced. Mary died in June 2014 from cancer.

Salomon-2 **Szajek (Charles) KLEIN** born 19 Nov 1910

Szajek, the second child of Salomon and Hella was born in Tarnow 19 Nov 1910. In ____ he went to France where he studied medicine and completed his medical degree in Montpellier. He then worked in a hospital in Montpellier. After he left Poland, he went by the name of Charles. During World War II, a Polish soldier was sent to the hospital for treatment. He stated he would not be treated by a Jewish Doctor. Charles left France and went to England where he spent the war years working in a hospital there. After the war he returned

to Montpellier, where he married **Odette (Sarah)** who was born in Paris. Later they moved to Anduze. They had one child, a son, **Jean-Paul** who was born in Montpellier. Charles died 9 June 1977. Odette (Sarah) died 8 July 2013.

(Charles) **Jean-Paul Klein** b 13 Oct 1949

Jean-Paul is a lawyer, living in Montpellier. He married **Marie-Renee Annette Jourdain**, born in Montpellier.

They have three children: **Laurent**, **Jerome**, and **Mélanie**, Jean-Paul and Marie-Renee are divorced.

Salomon-3 **IGNACY KLEIN** born 1912?

The third child of Salomon and Hella, Ignacy Klein, was born in Tarnow in . He was killed in World War II. Ignacy, his wife and daughter had taken refuge with a friend who was a priest. While they were there, Ukrainians (Russians) attacked the church, killing everyone.

Salomon-4 **BALBINA BASIA BARBARA KLEIN FLECKER KARASINSKI** born 1914?

Basia, the fourth child of Salomon and Hella was born in Tarnow in . Since her parents were well off, she had a nanny when she was a child and later attended an exclusive private girls' school. In 1935, she married **Ernest Flecker** who was born in Lwow. They lived in Lwow where Mr. Flecker owned one of the largest book publishing companies. His firm published *Gone with the Wind* in Polish. During the war the Germans murdered Mr. Flecker. Someone in Lwow had killed a German soldier, and the Germans were determined to find the killer. They closed off the street where Mr. Flecker's business was and took about 200 people hostage, including Mr. Flecker. They said if the killer came forward and turned himself in, they would release the innocent hostages. No one confessed, and all 200 people were killed.

In 1942, Basia met **Tad Karasinski**, an architect in Lwow, where Basia was manager of a construction company for Mr. Gephart. The company was doing war critical work either building hospitals or gestapo buildings. Tad had to approve all the plans, so they argued quite a bit. Then Basia put in a bid for one project and was given 30 minutes to get the plans together and submit the bid. She called Tad, and after he came to help her meet the deadline, she began to see him in a different light. In 1945 they left Poland, moving to Stuttgart, Germany where they lived for 3½ years. During that time several members of Basia's family also came to Stuttgart: Basia's brother Roman, his wife Lotka, and their son George; Basia's brother Henry; and Basia's mother, Hella with her second husband, Samuel Borer, who was seven years younger than Hella.

Mr. Karasinski learned that there were good opportunities for architects in Australia. In 1949 Tad moved to Melbourne, where he was an architect for A.V.

Jennings, a prestigious construction firm in the city. Six months later Basia joined him. Gradually the rest of the family also came to Melbourne through Basia and Tad's help. First Henry and his wife Blanya, whom he had met and married in Stuttgart, came in 1951. Blanya's parents Edu and Frieda Wang also come. Then Lotka Klein and her son George came. Roman Klein (George's father and Basia's brother) had died in Stuttgart in 1950 of kidney disease. Next, Basia's mother and stepfather, Hella and Samuel Borer, came to Melbourne. In 1958, Basia helped her first cousin Max Klein and his family settle in Melbourne. That same year, Tad Karasinski built the home in Beaumaris where Basia lived until her death from lung and brain cancer December 1, 1999. Tad Karasinski died of kidney failure in 1968. During Tad's lifetime, the Karasinskis entertained frequently. Especially on weekends, they had many gatherings at their home close to the beach. Basia also founded a group which supported Arts activities, called the Montmartre Arts Society. On one occasion this society sponsored a garden party at the Karasinskis. A ballet school gave a performance as entertainment in the garden. Both Tad and Basia enjoyed painting and Basia did pottery as well. In 1989, I saw several of their paintings in Basia's home. Basia was also the primary source for information on this part of the family.

Salomon-5

HENRY (HENEK) KLEIN

b 1919

The youngest child of Salomon and Hella was born in 1919 in Tarnow. During World War II Henry was in the Polish Army which later was controlled by the Russian Army. His unit was involved in "supply" and consisted primarily of women. Henry was told to drive a truck with supplies just to the border. But once he was across the border, they said he must stay there. For a while he was stationed in Warsaw. On one of his trips in the truck, he drove over a mine and sustained injuries from shrapnel. He was in the hospital recovering for six months. Afterwards, when he was released, he knew that his mother, Hella, had been sent to Siberia. He traveled for a month to find her, but when he arrived there, he learned that she had gone to join her son Roman to look for her daughter Basia.

In 1947 Henry joined his sister Basia and other family members in Stuttgart. There he became reacquainted with **Blanya Wang** whom he had met previously in Tarnow, but at that earlier time Henry had a girlfriend. Blanya's father had come to Stuttgart with his friend Roman, Henry's oldest brother. From Krakow, Blanya and her mother Frieda Wang had gone to Paris. All the Wangs intended to immigrate to the United States with the help of Mr. Wang's cousin who lived there, but these plans did not materialize. As a result, the Wangs moved first to Stuttgart and later to Melbourne. Henry and **Blanya** married in Stuttgart and Blanya was pregnant when they came to Melbourne in 1951. Their son, **Ron**, was born in Melbourne in 1952. When they first arrived, Henry and Blanya lived with Basia and Tad. Mr. and Mrs. Wang also came to Melbourne and they lived with a cousin for a while. Mr. Wang died of a heart attack in 1965? Until

she died in 1993, Mrs. Wang lived in Melbourne with her daughter, Blanya Klein.

Henry worked as a panel beater at first, repairing cars damaged in collisions. He was successful in this work and later obtained a car dealership. He was interested in mechanical things from an early age. He owned and operated Astoria Honda at the time of his death 9 June 1987 from cancer. He was an excellent skier and enjoyed travel. He also owned a small yacht. He and Blanya traveled extensively. He owned a two-story houseboat. He was highly regarded by his business associates and had many friends. He was a kind-hearted person who helped others as well as caring for his family and relatives. Blanya lives in the Melbourne suburb of Beaumaris.

(Henry) **Ron Klein** b 1952

Ron Klein lives in Brighton and owns and operates his late father's business. His degree in economics is from Monash University. For several years he lived in Europe where he was a tour guide. Ron is also an avid skier, and made several trips to Europe and the U.S. for skiing with his father. He is also an Aussie Rules Football barracker and sponsor. Ron has won many all-expense trips awarded by the Honda Company for achieving sales quotas for dealerships. He also had good fortune in the 1989 Melbourne Cup Race. He and **Debbie Sutherland** have two children: **Jared** and **Jason**.